



The Caumsett Foundation

Newsletter

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

Summer Cottage Restoration Begins

(See page 2)



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL!**
WITH EMPIRE PASS CARD OPTION
• ENVELOPE ENCLOSED •

— Our Environmental Management Projects —

Plank Road Sand Trail Restoration

A major project completed this year was the Plank Road Sand Trail restoration. The Foundation received a \$250,000 grant for the restoration of the 1600-foot sand trail that begins at the end of Fisherman's Road and connects to Plank Road. The trail divides the salt marsh and the Sound and was heavily eroded by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The raised berm was completely rebuilt with funds from a Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grant for Historic Properties.

Construction used existing rubble on the beach, with sand added to the top. Native vegetation was then placed along both sides. This restoration will help protect the integrity of the tidal wetland and allow patrons to once again walk along the raised trail down to Plank Road.



Completed Berm Project

Fresh Pond Phragmites Control Project

Our NYS DEC grant for the reduction and long-term management of Phragmites at the Fresh Pond was put into action this past summer with the removal of one-half acre of this highly invasive grass. The results of the first cutting were immediate in that several species of native plants flourished where they had been totally blocked by dense stands of Phragmites. In an effort to replace Phragmites with native flora, we will be installing two ten-meter square test plots. Species will be evaluated, and those showing the greatest ability to flourish will determine which natives will be used to replace the dense stands of Phragmites.

An interesting development in the Phragmites project evolved during the initial treatment. The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative began experimenting with an adaptive management strategy of cutting the Phragmites six inches below the water surface as a means of drowning the grass. A decision was made to try this strategy on the Fresh Pond project. Our local Caumsett Foundation volunteers working with the NYS Parks Strike Team, LI Future Fund Studies, the North Shore Land Alliance and the Foundation's environmental interns, cut the Phragmites regrowth at several locations to at least 6 inches below the water surface. The outcome of this strategy will be closely monitored and will be shared with other land managers. The Phragmites Control Project is funded until the year 2021.

Baltimore Checkerspot Butterflies

The Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly annual survey and census resulted in a peak count of 214 adults. This past summer marked the 11th successful year of the colony's existence at Caumsett (the only known colony on Long Island). The survey could not have been achieved without the cooperation of park management in observing the critical mowing window that allows this species to survive. In June, members of the LI Botanical Society will be involved in recording the adult Checkerspot butterflies.

Bird Surveys

Twenty-six bird surveys were conducted in the park and reported to Cornell's Lab of Ornithology's electronic reporting system known as "ebird" (an international avian reporting system). One hundred fifty-seven species were observed at the park, including some in great danger of decline due to grassland habitat loss. This past fall, the grassland restoration site recorded the highest total of Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks since 2008. In addition, two Northern Harriers, (birds with the NYS designation of "threatened"), were observed hunting in the fifty-acre field.

Environmental Volunteers

In 2019, participants volunteered in 22 efforts totaling approximately 285 man-hours of work. Large company participation increased and included several new groups. Over 50% of the work involved invasive plant removal. Other tasks involved preparing and planting native species, beach cleanup and management of the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly colonies. There is a long list of projects to be completed at the park. If you or your company would like to donate time and resources any of our environmental projects please contact: suefeustel@optonline.net



Volunteers celebrate Earth Day at Caumsett by cutting back invasive plants

Plans for 2020 – Invasive Vine Removal

Several years ago, NYS Parks provided help from the Excelsior Conservation Corps to cut the large vines from the park's native trees that line Fisherman's and Harbor Roads. We are working again with Parks to have the team come back to Caumsett and continue this important work. The damage caused by these vines places stress on our valuable native trees that make Caumsett's forest both beautiful and beneficial to the native species that use them.

Front Cover: Summer Cottage restoration contract signing. (l-r): Janet Barone, Foundation President; Glenn Crooker Sr., Principal, Alden Bailey Contracting; Kate Singer, Caumsett Showhouse Chair; Andrew Giamberone, owner of Andrew V. Giambertone and Associates; Jim Thomas, Senior Associate at Andrew V. Giambertone and Associates; Glenn Crooker Jr., Project Manager at Alden Bailey Contracting.

Exciting Year for Building Projects

Summer Cottage

The Summer Cottage is one of the three most significant residential buildings in the park. It was designed in 1935 by John Russell Pope and landscaped by the Olmstead Brothers. Marshall Field III originally used it as a family guesthouse and to house WWII refugees from London during the German bombing campaign. In 1956 Ruth Field moved there after the death of her husband and then Nassau BOCES made it the headquarters for their environmental educational programs for 40 years. The structure has been vacant since 2018 and has deteriorated significantly due to the lack of routine maintenance and water damage. It has outdated electric, plumbing and heating systems and no air conditioning. The State has leased the Cottage to the Foundation for restoration and rental as a private residence, as has been successfully done with the Winter and Engineer's Cottages. One-hundred percent of the rental income will be going back into maintenance and preservation projects in the park.



Summer Cottage circa 1935

The Foundation has engaged architect Andrew Giambertone to develop plans and specifications for the restoration. Alden Bailey Inc., a firm that specializes in historic preservation and renovation has been selected as the contractor for the project. The work began in February and will be completed in late July just in time for the Foundation's Caumsett Designer Showhouse. The entire project is being funded by private grants and donations.

Caumsett Café

A delicious improvement is coming to Caumsett! Until now, there was no place to purchase soft drinks or light refreshments in the park. In response to our visitors' requests and as a part of the ongoing Master Plan for Caumsett, that's about to change!

The Foundation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have worked with architects Beyer Blinder Belle to design and build a state-of-the-art café. The café is located in the courtyard between the Horse, Hay and Dry stock barns (right across from the all new restroom facilities). Infrastructure and all major construction have been completed; appliances and custom cabinets have been installed and the finishing touches are now being applied. At last, our park visitors will have an attractive place to enjoy a freshly made cup of coffee, snack or even light lunch. The Foundation is also working to convert the adjacent sliding door shed to a comfortable open-air eating area.

A committee is now taking shape to select a café manager and formulate a healthy menu for adults and children alike. The Foundation is certainly aware of the potential problem of litter from café serving containers. We will work with the operator to ensure procedures are put in place for minimal food packaging. Watch our website for the opening announcement and full details of the menu.



Cabinetry installed inside of new café



Home of new café

New Entrance Road and Enlarged Parking Lot

Renovations to the Caumsett park entrance road are almost complete! Soon, an all-new, re-engineered, wider road with an enlarged parking lot will be ready for use. The parking lot and road are being built in part by using recycled material from the original concrete road at the Henry Lloyd Manor House entrance. After the concrete was removed, it was ground up, processed and spread as a 6" deep base for both the new asphalt road and parking lot.

The new parking lot will have attractive rain gardens to collect rainwater run-off from the larger surface area. A rain garden is a depressed area in the landscape that collects rainwater from a roof, driveway or street and allows it to soak into the ground. Planted with grasses and flowering perennials, rain gardens can be a beautiful way to reduce runoff from a property.

New wider culverts will be rebuilt using the original historic estate stone. The brick column with concrete orb finial located at Lloyd Harbor Road will be repaired (it was hit by a truck years ago). It is our hope that the lines of vehicles forming at the park entrance will be a thing of the past as the park will implement a more efficient entry system. The small, outdated payment booth is being replaced with numerous self-pay stations that will accept Empire Passes and other forms of payment.

These are much needed park improvements and we are grateful that the State has worked together with the Foundation to help secure funding for these projects.



Stone culvert rebuilt using original stone



New entrance road

Our Educational Programs

Our Educational Programs

The Foundation ran 17 free public programs in 2019 including a “Photo Walk” with professional photographer Michael Fairchild, a live bird and owl presentation from Volunteers for Wildlife, and Yoga in the Walled Garden led by a Foundation Board member. All were smash hits with record attendance. These community events have been an important means for Caumsett and the Foundation to connect with our surrounding area residents and spread awareness of the park and all it has to offer. Our philosophy has always been the more people that experience and benefit from the park, the more support we will gather to protect it. This year will be no different and we look forward to a continued expansion of our community program offerings. A tentative listing is provided for you on the back cover of this newsletter. Always check our website for the most up to date program details. Don’t miss out on the fun!



Photo Walk with Michael Fairchild



Yoga with Lisa Kasper



Daffodil Hill Hike to the Henry Lloyd Manor House



Member’s Egg Hunt

Changes to the Foundation’s Board

Long-time Board members Henry Babcock, Lyn Pflug and Diane Bartell have retired. Henry was the Foundation’s stalwart president for 11 years and guided the Board through a very significant period. He will now step into an advisory position, for which we are most grateful. Lyn was our treasurer for many years and was known for keeping meticulous financial records. Diane was the steward of our Walled Garden and has now moved to Colorado. We thank Henry, Lyn and Diane for their many important contributions to the Foundation and park!



We are excited to have Stacey Paci join the Board. Stacey grew up in Cold Spring Harbor and now she and her husband are raising their children here. Stacey joined our Board after she participated as one of our decorating Chairs for the 2019 benefit. Stacey’s first role on the Board will be to oversee the renovation of the Park’s kiosk (built by the Foundation over 20 years ago).

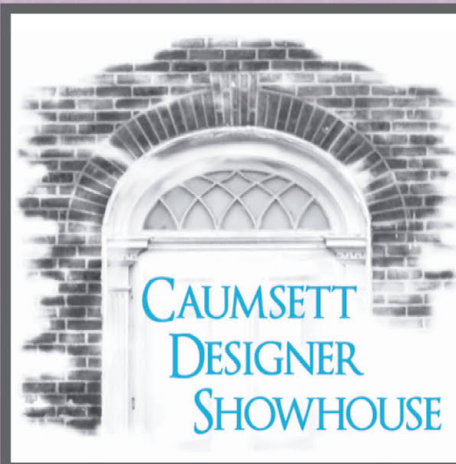


Darren Pascarella, an attorney with Farrell Fritz in Uniondale is also new to our Board. Darren enjoys the park with his family. He frequently walks in the park and has recently taken up the hobby of beekeeping. Darren will take over the role of Chair for our “Run for Caumsett”, a 5K run/walk coming this spring.

22nd Annual Benefit

“Let’s Go Crazy for Caumsett!”

“Let’s Go Crazy for Caumsett” was a great success! Last September, more than 350 park supporters attended a “Prince” themed party – almost all wearing some form of purple! Our large party tent was filled with a beautiful sea of purple umbrellas lit by tiny votive candles inside glass orbs that looked like drops of rain. The band, “The Purple Xperience” is the only official Prince tribute band in the nation and is endorsed by the estate of Prince. Lead singer Marshall Charloff and his band members brought an authentic production of Prince and The Revolution to the Caumsett stage. Charloff styled the magic of Prince’s talent and fashion with his unique appearance, vocal imitation, and multi-instrumental capacity on guitar and piano. Our sincere thanks go out to the benefit committee volunteers who made this a wonderful night! Funds raised will support the Foundation’s ongoing building and environmental projects.



SAVE THE DATE

CAUMSETT FOUNDATION’S 23rd ANNUAL BENEFIT
Saturday, October 3rd, 6:30pm

Join us for our 23rd Annual Benefit. This fun evening will begin with a preview of the Caumsett Designer Showhouse and includes cocktails, dinner and live music.

CAUMSETT DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE
Sunday, October 4th – Sunday, November 15th

For tickets and more information visit: www.CaumsettShowhouse.com

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NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
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Grant / Berm Restoration Project

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and generosity make all
of the Foundation's
work possible.*

Foundation Programs 2020

All events are free to the public (except member-only events).

The NYS parking fee is \$8 or you can use an Empire Pass Card. For the latest information on cancellation due to weather, please call the park at (631) 423-1770. For member-only activities, please present your membership card. For hikes, please wear comfortable walking shoes, long socks, and bring your choice of insect repellent. Pick up water and snacks at the new Café!

Annual Egg Hunt for Foundation Members

Saturday, April 11th, 10:30am, *Rain or Shine*, Walled Garden

Members of the Caumsett Foundation and their families are invited to join us for our Annual Egg Hunt in the Walled Garden. Bring your basket and join in the fun! In addition to refreshments, crafts and a petting zoo, Mr. Bunny will be there for photo opportunities.

From Egg to Chick: Grades K-6

Saturday April 18th at 10:00am, *Rain or Shine*, Classrooms

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension as you explore the life cycle of the chicken and learn how the chick embryo develops inside the egg. This engaging session bring science alive for students and includes interaction with chicks and hens.

Henry Lloyd Manor House and Daffodil Hill Hike

Saturday, April 25th, 10am, Meet at Kiosk

Hike with Dawn Cleary on a visit to the beautiful and historic valley where Henry Lloyd's Manor House, built in 1711, still stands today. Overlooking Lloyd Harbor and nestled on one side by Daffodil Hill, this spot is as picturesque and protected as it was when the Matinecock Native Americans resided here. Estimated time and distance: 2 hours/2 miles.

I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 2nd, 9-11am, Meet at Kiosk

Join us in an activity to give back to the Park. We will be doing a beach clean-up and an invasive plant removal project in the restoration field. Details can be found on the NYS ILMPD website and participants should register with NYS Parks. See the link to register online at our website under programs.

Dairy Farm Lecture and Stroll

Sunday, May 3rd, 10am, *Rain or Shine*, Meet at Kiosk

Take a stroll with author John Barone and look inside Caumsett's historic dairy barns and bottling plant. Learn about Caumsett Farm, its famous award winning cows and how they provided milk for the estate families and local Huntington residents.

Plein Air Painting with Howard Rose

3 1/2 Hour Classes beginning at 9:30am \$25 per Class, *Rain or Shine*

Popular painter and instructor, **Howard Rose**, will teach how to start a landscape painting in oil or acrylic going from major shapes to smaller shapes; reviewing simple mixing techniques using a limited palette; and discussing the 22 elements that go into creating a good painting. Weather permitting, we will paint outdoors or you can bring photographic references.

Monday, May 4th - By the Water

Monday, May 11th - At the Mansion

Monday, June 1st - By the Dairy Barn

Monday, June 8th - In the Walled Garden

Register for one or all four classes. See our website for payment/registration and supply list. Classes limited to 15 students. Reserve a spot now.

Seashore and Salt Marsh Hike

Saturday, May 9th, 10am, Meet at Kiosk

Join Dawn Cleary on a two-mile hike of the seashore and over 60 acres of salt marsh at Caumsett. See breathtaking views of the Long Island Sound and stunning glacial deposits that amateur and professional rock hounds can enjoy equally. We will walk the shoreline and visit the salt marsh, tide permitting. Estimated time and distance: 3 hours/4 miles.

Nature Hike with Bill Monahan

Saturday, May 16th, 10am, Meet at Kiosk

Join Bill Monahan, BOCES Director of Environmental Education Programs as you hike Caumsett and learn about its history, important habitats and wildlife. Discover something new in the park.

Create a Kitchen Garden with Lisa deGuzman

Sunday, May 17th, 12pm, *Rain or Shine*, Classrooms

Sow herbs from seed for your kitchen or outdoor garden. Using fresh herbs enhances the flavor of any dish! Learn how to harvest seeds from your plants for future use. Supplies provided.

Funnyman Ellis Adler

Saturday, May 30th, 10:00am, *Rain or Shine*, Walled Garden

See step-by-step how "The Funny Man" goes through the process of becoming a clown. And the children end up going to "clown school" to learn some basic concepts of clowning such as pretending, making funny movements, story telling, and most importantly making others laugh. Bring your own seating.

"Run for Caumsett" 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, May 31st, 8am check-in, 9am race time, Walled Garden

Proactive Physical Therapy Inc. and the Caumsett Foundation present the 6th Annual 5K "Run for Caumsett" in beautiful Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve. Register at: www.caumsettfoundation.org

Nature at Night: Grades K-6

Saturday, June 6th at 7-8:30pm, *Rain or Shine*, Classrooms

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension and participate in hands-on activities to discover the mysterious creatures that come out at night. Our resident nocturnal friends will accompany the educator in the classroom to allow students an interaction "up close and personal." Followed by an evening stroll to see if you can spot some night creatures!

Photography Walk with Michael Fairechild

Saturday, June 13th, 10:30am - 12:30pm, Meet at Kiosk

Walk with Michael through Caumsett and see the park through a professional photographer's eyes. Get tips on taking beautiful shots. Michael has been a professional photographer since 1970. Wear hiking shoes and bring your camera!

Magic by Chris Homer

Saturday, June 20th at 10:30am, *Rain or Shine*, Walled Garden

Chris started performing magic during his first few years of teaching and since then has presented many private shows for children and adults. Witness a variety of amazing magic tricks, many funny and unexpected things that unfold during the show. Bring your own seating, blankets or chairs.

Reiki Circle Under the Sun and Stars

Tuesdays, June 23rd, 30th, July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th at 6-7pm, *Rain or Shine*, Walled Garden

Deflate and de-stress your day and join us for an evening of Reiki and Meditation. Reiki Master Teacher Constance Korol will provide a guided mediation as well as Reiki, energy work to relax and recharge the body. Bring a bolster, blanket, pillow and yoga mat and get ready to feel at peace.

Off the Beaten Path

Sunday, June 28th, 10am, Meet at Kiosk

Join Dawn Cleary on a walk off the beaten path. And although the main loop offers a great introduction to the park, on this hike we will discover some of the less-traveled, established trails that are off the beaten path. You never know what wildlife we'll encounter in the beautiful forests and fields that abound here! Estimated time and distance: 2 hours/3 miles.

Yoga Thursdays

July 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, August 6th & 13th at 6-7pm

Rain or Shine, Walled Garden

Please join us for an extraordinary experience as instructor Lisa Kasper leads us through a rejuvenating hour of peaceful yoga and meditation in the lovely Walled Garden. This program is appropriate for all levels, including beginners. Please bring your own mat and water and wear comfortable clothing.